

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04763 101558Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EA-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 H-01
/104 W

-----102105Z 116818 /72

R 101127Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1517

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4763

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PK
SUBJECT: GOP REQUESTED USG TO PROVIDE ADVANCE AID PLEDGE

SUMMARY: GOP APPEARS TO BE MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO PERSUADE
DONORS TO MAKE AID PLEDGES IN ADVANCE OF THE CONSORTIUM. IN
ADDITION TO THE APPROACH THE CANADIANS TELL US WAS MADE TO
ALL CONSORTIUM MEMBERS IN WASHINGTON, ACTING EAD SECRETARY
HAS APPROACHED US AND FRG ECONOMIC COUNSELORS REQUESTING
PLEDGES. WE RECOMMEND AGAINST MAKING A PLEDGE AT THIS TIME
ON BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GROUNDS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT DINNER PARTY MAY 7, ADDITIONAL EAD SECRETARY SARFRAZ
KHAN MALIK (EAD SECRETARY S OUT OF THE COUNTRY) INFORMED
E/C COUNS THAT GOP WAS PLANNING POSTPONE CONSORTIUM MEETING
FOR A FURTHER 2 MONTHS OR SO BEYOND PRESENT JULY TIMING.
REASON GIVEN WAS THAT DRAFT GOP MULTI-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN
WAS HAVING TO BE REVISED AGAIN AND THIS WOULD AFFECT GOP'S
ECONOMIC PROGRAM FOR FY 78.

2. SINCE CONSORTIUM MEETING WAS THUS LIKELY TO BE DELAYED
INTO THE AUTUMN, MALIK SAID THAT THE GOP WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING IN ADVANCE INFORMATION ABOUT PLANNED USG AID
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FOR GOP FY 78. HE ADDED THAT SIMILAR REQUESTS WERE
BEING MADE TO OTHER CONSORTIUM AID DONORS. THIS DATA

WAS NEEDED FOR BOTH REVISING THE MULTI-YEAR PLAN AND FOR
DRAFTING THE GOP FY 78 BUDGET.

3. E/C COUNS TOLD MALIK THAT HIS REQUEST WOULD BE PASSED

TO WASHINGTON.

4. ON MAY 9 CANADIAN COUNSELOR INFORMED EMBOFF THAT WORD HAD COME FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT GOP HAD ASKED THE IBRD TO GET INDICATIONS OF DONOR AID PLANS IN LIGHT OF INITIAL POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONSORTIUM MEETING. ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN MESSAGE, DURING THE INFORMAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON OF THE HEADS OF DONOR DELEGATIONS APRIL 28-29, "MOST" DONORS HAD RESPONDED GIVING TENTATIVE LEVELS BASED ON INFORMATION ALREADY PUBLIC. CANADA, JAPAN AND GERMANY HAD MADE NO PLEDGES SAYING THEY FELT THEY MUST FIRST REVIEW PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC SITUATION IN A CONSORTIUM MEETING. MSG DID NOT MENTION USG STANCE. DURING THE SAME SESSION, THE IBRD HAD REPORTEDLY SAID IT FELT A JULY MEETING WAS UNREALISTIC AND HAD PROPOSED AN OCTOBER DATE.

5. GERMANY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR BLEINROTH MAY 10 CALLED ON ACTING AID DIRECTOR TO SAY THAT SARFRAZ KAHN MALIK HAD ALSO ASKED THE FRG GOVERNMENT FOR AN ADVANCE INDICATION OF AID LEVELS. MALIK TOLD HIM THAT AN AIDE MEMOIRE MAKING A FORMAL REQUEST WAS BEING PREPARED AND THAT IT WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE FRG AMBASSADOR. BLEINROTH SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE AMBASSADOR, HE WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY SUCH ADVANCE PLEDGE.

6. COMMENT: WHILE GOP MUST HAVE SOME NOTIONAL IDEA OF POSSIBLE USG AID LEVELS FROM OUR CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION, THE EMBASSY AND AID MISSION CONSIDER IT INAPPROPRIATE AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS JUNCTURE FOR USG TO RESPOND TO GOP REQUEST. EVEN IF BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE NOT NOW COLORED BY BHUTTO'S ANTI-AMERICAN CHARGES, THUS CASTING DOUBT ON FITNESS OF OUR MAKING AN ADVANCE PLEDGE, WE AGREE WITH CANADA, JAPAN AND GERMANY THAT IT WOULD BE UNSUITABLE ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS TO PROVIDE GOP WITH PLEDGES IN ADVANCE OF A MEETING. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE IDEA OF HOLDING AN ANNUAL CONSORTIUM MEETING IS TO REVIEW GOP'S PAST PERFORMANCE AND PRESENT PLANS WITH THE VIEW THAT IF FUTURE PLANS APPEAR SATISFACTORY, THEN ONLY DO WE MAKE A PLEDGE OF ASSISTANCE. WE SEE NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY NOW CHANGING THE RULES OF THE GAME.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON TEND OF DISCUSSION AND ANY STATEMENTS MADE BY US REPS AT WASHINGTON MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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